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Celebrate Alaska's Gold Rushes

with the Bureau of Land Management



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A BLM "Adventures in the Past" Series

You can relive some of the excitement of the Alaska gold rush era by visiting locations where history was made. From the southeast panhandle to the far north, BLM manages a variety of gold rush sites~ places with lively names such as Coldfoot, Dalton Cache, and Iditarod.

For more information, contact the BLM in Alaska at:



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Celebrate Alaska



Fort Egbert

Located at Eagle, Alaska, where the Taylor Highway ends at the south bank of the Yukon River, Milepost 161.

Fort Egbert, a National Historic Landmark, is a former United States Army post established in 1899 to bring law and order to the region being overrun by miners heading for, and spreading out from, the Klondike Gold Rush in nearby Canada. After abandonment in 1911, an Army Signal Corps contingent remained there to operate a telegraph and wireless station until about 1925. Presently, the BLM manages 5 standing restored structures in cooperation with the local Eagle Historical Society. Exhibits and an interpretive trail on the fort grounds are available for visitors.



Davidson Ditch

The Davidson Ditch, some 72 miles long with an additional 25 miles of feeder ditches, penstocks, siphons, and a tunnel, begins at a diversion dam on the Chatanika River, three-fourths of a mile below the junction of Faith and McManus Creeks. It runs southward past the heads of Little Eldorado and Dome Creeks to Vault Creek and then through a 3,716-foot tunnel to the vicinity of Fox, on Goldstream Creek, just north of Fairbanks.

The Davidson Ditch was constructed during 1925-28 to bring much-needed additional water into the Fox mining district north of Fairbanks for gold mining purposes. It is the longest, most elaborate water transportation system built in the region. It represented a new phase in the evolution of gold mining in the area which began in the early 1900s. Portions of the ditch, including siphons (elevated pipes), can be seen in the Chatanika Valley along the Steese Highway, including at U.S. Creek (Milepost 57.3) and near the BLM Campground at Cripple Creek (Milepost 60).



Jack Wade Dredge

Located at MP 86 on the Taylor Highway between Tetlin Junction (MP 1301.6 of the Alaska Highway) and Eagle on the Yukon River.

Commonly called the Jack Wade Dredge, it began as the Butte Creek Dredge. Installed in 1934 below the mouth of Butte Creek, it was later moved to Walker Fork, then to Wade Creek. It was one of the first bucket-line dredges used in the area and it worked the longest time. Mining continues in the vicinity today, some on lands managed by the BLM.

The Iditarod Historic Trail

Running from Seward to Nome, the Iditarod Trail is actually a network of trails named for a 19th-century mail route. It follows the Iditarod River near Fairbanks, central Alaska. Portions of the trail are near Knik, and Nome.

The 1909 gold rush brought a boom to the Iditarod Trail but now abandoned, it is a mail trail between portions of the trail. The Iditarod Trail is a variety of roadhouses, and is mixed, with regions with

Alaska's Gold Rushes



Dalton Cache

Located 41 miles northwest of Haines along the Haines Highway, at the U.S. - Canadian border.

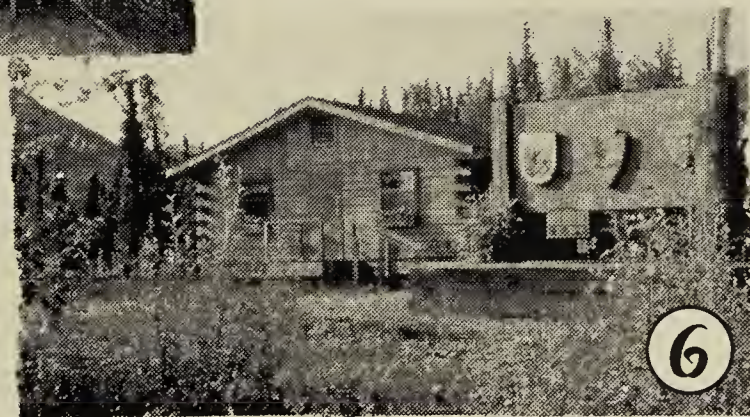
The Dalton Cache is a pre-Klondike Gold Rush outpost built around 1895 by Jack Dalton for storing trading goods before transport over Chilkat Pass into the Yukon Territory. When the Klondike Gold Rush hit in 1897-98, the cache became a stopping place for miners streaming toward Dawson. Though partially restored, it is not open to the public today. It is marked by an interpretive sign.



Iditarod National Historic Trail

From Seward to Nome, the Iditarod National Historic Trail is a network of more than 2,300 miles of trails. A 19th-century Athabascan Indian village on the trail is the site of a 1909 gold discovery in western Alaska. Remains of the trail may be seen near Seward.

The discovery led to the flourishing, named, town of Iditarod and a trail between Seward and Nome. Today, the Iditarod Trail are used during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Along the trail are historic and prehistoric remains including cabins, and other structures and sites. Ownership of the trail is under BLM's management including some of the more remote areas with limited public access.



Coldfoot Gold Camp and Interpretive Center

Located at MP 173.6 of the Dalton Highway, 57.6 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Coldfoot is the unique name of one of Alaska's northernmost gold mining camps established about 1899 on the east bank of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River. It was deserted in 1912 when miners rushed northward to a strike at nearby Wiseman. Today, a mixture of standing and collapsed structures can be seen from a dirt road off the highway, as well as a small cemetery. The Interpretive Center, open daily during the summer, includes photographs of historic Coldfoot and adjacent areas with evening talks sometimes available by BLM volunteers.



Wrangell

1861

With a gold discovery at Telegraph Creek near the former Russian settlement of Wrangell, gold seekers turned new attention to Alaska's mineral wealth. These first photos dating to 1868, show some of the community's Tlingit population.



Wrangell

1880

Major gold strikes on Gold Creek near Juneau led to the establishment of Alaska's capital city, and inspired more mineral exploration in the North.



Chilkoot Pass

1886

Gold found in the Fortymile River by Howard Franklin caused the first rush to interior Alaska, setting the stage for further strikes throughout the region.



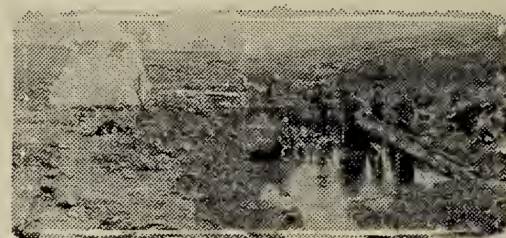
Floating to Dawson

1896—1898

The enormous Klondike strike in nearby Canada on Bonanza Creek, a tributary of the Yukon River, drew thousands of new prospectors to Alaska.

1893

Gold discoveries near Rampart and Circle focused new attention on the Yukon River drainage as a place to prospect.



Near Nome

1898—1899

Gold discoveries at Nome by the "Three Lucky Swedes" caused another massive rush north with prospectors continuing to search all parts of Alaska for gold. In 1899 more gold was discovered on the beaches of Nome.



Dillman Creek



Beaver City

1898—1899

Gold discoveries in the Koyukuk drainage brought prospectors to the foothills of the Brooks Range, the northern-most extent of Alaska's gold rushes. Small strikes led to short-lived mining camps at Beaver City, Dillman Creek, Coldfoot, and elsewhere.

1902 Italian Immigrant, Felix Pedro, discovered gold on Pedro Creek, and Fairbanks was founded. Enormous amounts of gold are still being mined there today.



Valdez Creek

1903

Discoveries at Valdez Creek, near the current Denali Highway, set off a small stampede to a district which in the late 1980s and early 1990s contained the largest gold placer mine in North America, before closing in 1995.



Iditarod

1909

Gold discoveries at Iditarod and Flat set off another rush, sometimes called "The Last Great Rush," although small strikes continue to this day.